Lovely Strange Dark
ULTRABAROQUE DEPROGRAMMER
BY ITOU SEIKOU & ASADA TORAO
CHAPTER 11
Scans & translations
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lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
IT...
F
EELS
...
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
...I CAN'T...
DEPRO-GRAMMER
...
SSS
SSS

NOBIRU!
SKEE
DEPRO-GRAM-MER!
SORA-CHA—
OO
O...
G
...IT'S OVER...
CHAPTER 11 ● NOSTALGIC KILL 1

tap tap tap
IT'D BE THE SAME IF OUR BOSS DIED
HEY, THAT KID RIGHT THERE
HE LOOKS LIKE SORACHAI
tap tap tap
DAVID JONES DIED AT A SEMINAR,
tap tap tap
AND HIS REMAINS WERE LATER TRANSPORTED TO THE REAL LIFE HEADQUARTERS WHERE THE FUNERAL IS BEING HELD ——
HE'S NOT EVEN A POLITICIAN OR BISHOP OR ANYTHING, BUT HE STILL GETS THIS KIND OF COVERAGE DAY AFTER DAY.
THAT WAS THE KID AT ST. AUGUSTINE.
THE LITTLE THAI EXCHANGE STUDENT.

He told me all about the abandoned workshop
the kids are squatting in without me even asking
and he hates being teased about it
He's some elite here on his government's dime!
HE WAS ALL LIKE, "NO TELLING!" "NEXT TIME YOU'D BETTER COME AND HANG OUT WITH US!"
tap tap
I HARDLY FELT MY USUAL DISLIKE OF CHILDREN AT ALL.
tap tap
ISN'T IT MORE YOUR STYLE TO GIVE ELITES LIKE HIM A BROKEN NOSE?
HAHA, THIS IS WORK!

...HOW LONG WAS I OUT?
ABOUT HALF A DAY WE HAVE TO THANK SORACHAI.
AND THE DEPRO-GRAMMER?
HE SHOULD BE WAKING UP SOON.
YOU DON'T LIKE THIS SMELL, BUT THE DEPRO-GRAMMER LOVES IT.
—YEAH.

MAKEUP AND PERFUME.

That female doctor, what was it... — that's right.
Wh- Who's she!? Wait, Sora told me.
AH!
JUMP
YOU SCARED ME!
WEREN'T YOU INTERESTED IN ME?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

GET YOUR HANDS OFF CHIKA.
I'LL GIVE YOU MORE THAN JUST A KICK THIS TIME!

LOOKS LIKE YOU NEEDED FOOD MORE THAN DRUGS.
stalk
NOM NOM
SORACHAI INSISTED THAT I DON'T BRING YOU BACK TO THE HOSPITAL
YOU WERE OUT FOR A WHILE, SO I WENT HOME AND CAME BACK TODAY WITH THE DRUGS WE'D BEEN GIVING YOU
SO!
LEGIT
THINGS WOULD'VE TURNED OUT BADLY FOR YOU IF I HADN'T KICKED YOU, HUH!?

YOU LOOKED JUST LIKE YOU DID BACK AT THE HOSPITAL.
I KNOW YOUR VOICE WELL.
YOU'D SPEND ALL DAY RECITING QUOTES AND SONG LYRICS,
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE COMMUNI-CATED.
THANKS FOR THAT, BUT MY MOLARS ARE RATTLING.
YOU'RE TALKING NORMALLY NOW.
? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M MASAKI CHIKA.

it's gotta be that I've been deprived so long that just the smell of a woman is enough to get me going.
...Is she... super sexy? —— No,
it's unlikely that a doctor like her didn't have a hand in it.
When you think about the sleeping gas back at the hospital,
Wait.
TOLD YOU A LITTLE ABOUT ME, RIGHT?
SO SORA'S...
AND I'M NOT CONVINCED THAT YOU'RE A DEPROGRAMMER.
HUH?
HE SAID YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS STILL A BLANK, BUT YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR JOB.
BUT I FIND IT A LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WASHERS HAD YOU CONFINED AT MY HOSPITAL.
I DO KNOW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF PROFESSIONAL DEPROGRAMMERS AND WASHERS DUE TO MY LINE OF WORK.

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW A FAKE!? WORKING IN VAGUELY THE SAME FIELD DOESN'T MEAN MUCH!
LIKE YOU IN YOUR IVORY TOWER KNOW HOW WE DO OUR JOBS DOWN IN THE STREETS!
YOU COULD HURT NOBIRU PLAYING AT DEPROGRAMMING LIKE THAT!
PLAYING AT DEPROGRAMMING!?
HEY SORA! GO BRING NOBIRU HERE!
SORA?
...IT HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE PASSED OUT.

Seeing that,
I thought the situation didn't look so good. And once I had that thought, it's like it just surged out from the back of my throat.
SO THAT WAS HIS "HYPNOTISM"?
WHEN I WAS UNDER, HIS VOICE FELT REALLY GOOD.
AND WHEN I CAME TO, HE WAS NEXT TO THE WINDOW LOOKING SERIOUS, LIKE HE WAS CONCENTRATING.
IT JUST HAPPENED.
LIKE, "NOTHING THERE'S NOTHING HERE." BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY,
WHAT KIND OF SONG WAS IT?

IT'S LIKE HE BLAMES HIMSELF WHENEVER HIS SINGING HAS A BAD EFFECT.
I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE.
WHEN NOBIRU SANG OUTSIDE, A TON OF BIRDS FLOCKED AROUND AND SQUAWKED LIKE CRAZY AT HIM.
"Nothing. There's nothing here."
Is that what that sound wave was——?
He doesn't listen when I offer to come with or tell him to stop!
He just comes back eventually. He is always come back before.
HE'S RUN AWAY LOTS OF TIMES BEFORE
MAYBE IT WASN'T GOOD.
MAYBE IT INTERFERED WITH THE DEPRO-GRAMMING.
HE WOUND UP SORRY THAT HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE BIRDS WERE TRYING TO SAY

I THINK THAT BOY HAS SOME-THING
INCREDIBLY LARGE AND UNCONTROL-LABLE.

How much does this psychiatrist know about what's in Nobiru's head?
IF YOU'RE CALLING YOURSELF A DEPROGRAMMER, COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST SENSE SOME PART OF IT?
AREN'T YOU TWO BEING A LITTLE NAIVE?
IF YOU LOOK AT IT FROM MY POINT OF VIEW,
and sound of "nothing" that burst from his mouth.
It's true that there was nothing on the surface of Nobiru's mindscape.
That endless expanse of white hills
THAT HE LEFT TO REPORT THE OUTCOME?
DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU THINK
NOBIRU MANIPULATED SOMEONE WITH HIS VOICE AND HAS SINCE DISAPPEARED

H—
HEY!
WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT THERE'S SOMEONE PULLING HIS STRINGS——
YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT HIM!
YOU'RE BEING RIDICULOUS!
WE'VE KNOWN HIM FOR A WHILE!
WAIT FOR ME TO FINISH!
clack
WHO THE HELL WOULD THINK HE'S WORKING FOR SOMEONE!?
rustle rustle
...ISN'T IT MORE ACCURATE TO SAY
NOBIRU ISN'T THAT KIND OF GUY!
I'M STILL EATING. I'M GOING TO EAT THAT!

We both want to know
what it is that I saw inside Nobiru.
THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE KNOWN NOBIRU LONGER THAN ME,
YOU DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW MUCH OF ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, DO YOU?
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM
.....
NOBIRU HAS A KEY ON HIM
IS NOBIRU BACK?

click
ting
THERE ARE A LOT OF US, SO I'M HEADED UP TOO
THEN LET'S MEET BACK UP ON-SITE
NO WAY, SOMEONE GOT IN WITHOUT TRIGGERING THE ALARM!?
THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN GET THROUGH THE OUT-SIDE WALL!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE THE SECURITY PROGRAM, RIGHT?

tap tap
tap tap
SORACHAI?
...I DON'T BELIEVE THIS
WHAM
WE SHOULD MAKE A RUN FOR IT——
WHAM

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
THE BUILDING SECURITY IS DOWN...
WHAM
SOMEONE REWROTE MY PROGRAM—
WHAM